

# AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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## Our Nation Looks at Its Schools

Observance of American Education Week Is Under Way

THE annual observance of American Education Week began yesterday, November 8, and will continue through Saturday, November 14. During this period, our nation's citizens are expected to devote special attention to the accomplishments and the needs of their schools.

**Swift growth** of the student population is bound to be a major point in any discussion or appraisal of U. S. education today.

Approximately 46,500,000 young people—an all-time record—are now attending schools and colleges in America. This number, equaling more than one-fourth of all our citizens, represents an increase of nearly 2,000,000 over last year's enrollment.

Continued growth of the school population calls for more teachers, more buildings, and more equipment. Certain communities are so short of teachers and classrooms that pupils must attend school in shifts or half-day sessions. In many other localities, classes are extremely crowded.

**Spending** on public elementary and high schools in this nation has risen from about 5.8 billion dollars in the 1949-50 school year to nearly 14.4 billion in the year ending last spring. On public and private educational institutions at all levels, we spend more than 20 billion dollars annually. Is this enough? Certain groups reply:

"No. The 20 billion dollars per year that Americans now devote to education represents only about 5 1/3% of their entire national income. In a country where billions are spent annually for luxuries, we can certainly afford bigger outlays on school buildings and teachers' salaries.

"The National Education Association (NEA) says: 'For new and used automobiles, the American people have spent 110 billion dollars since 1948. For tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and cosmetics in the same period, we've spent 151 billion. For recreation we've spent 127 billion. In these same 10 years of 1949 through 1958, we

have spent 78 billion for public elementary and secondary schools.'

"The average public school instructor last year was paid \$4,775. In quite a few cases, workers who don't need any more training than teachers must have—and who may even need less—receive larger incomes. Teachers' salaries should be boosted, so that capable young people will be attracted to this vital profession in larger numbers, and so that first-raters now engaged in teaching will continue."

Arthur Flemming, U. S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, says teachers' salaries should be doubled within the next 5 to 10 years.

**On the other hand**, many people argue *against* any sharp increase in expenditures for education. While admitting that school shortages exist in some communities, they contend that our nation as a whole is taking good care of its educational needs.

"According to the U. S. Chamber of Commerce," they argue, "this country is already building more than enough classrooms to keep up with the current growth in school population. It is also catching up with the backlog of shortages that accumulated during the 1930's and early 1940's—years of war and depression when little construction took place.

"There is no great school 'crisis,' such as various organizations pretend to see."

Mr. Roger Freeman, who has done a great deal of speaking and writing on school finance, says that expenditures for education have increased many times as rapidly as enrollment during the last half century. He contends that large sums of money are wasted on buildings which are more elaborate than necessary.

While admitting that "many good teachers are woefully underpaid," Mr. Freeman thinks instructors' salaries taken as a whole are not as bad as has been made out.

**Federal, state, local.** Another disputed point is this: How should the

financial burdens of public education be divided among the various levels of government?

At present, public elementary and high schools receive 56% of their money from local governments, 40% from the states, and 4% from our federal government.

Federal school aid is provided under several different programs. For instance, Uncle Sam furnishes money to help build new schools in towns whose populations have greatly increased because of nearby defense factories or installations.

Also, there is the National Defense Education Act of 1958. It authorizes federal loans to universities—which in turn lend money to college students who need financial aid. In addition, it provides assistance for advanced students who plan to become college instructors. Finally, it authorizes federal grants to help the states work out various plans for school improvement.

Many people believe that the national government should go even further—setting up a large-scale program to help with school construction and maintenance throughout the country. In support of this view, they argue as follows:

"Without substantial U. S. aid, some of our less prosperous states and communities simply can't afford to build and maintain adequate schools. Poor schools in any locality are harmful to the entire nation, and so the national government should help improve them."

Opponents of this view reply: "Schools are mainly a state and local responsibility. Large-scale U. S. aid might result in federal domination.

We should concentrate on reducing federal spending and taxation, so that the *state and local* governments can more easily raise revenue for schools and other purposes."

**Expanded role.** Our schools—regardless of how they are supported financially—carry far heavier responsibilities today than in earlier times. Early secondary schools and colleges were intended for relatively few people—mainly those who were preparing for such professions as law or the ministry.

At the beginning of this century, only 11.4% of the youths from 14 to 17 years old were in high school. By now, more than 83% attend. College enrollment within the 18-21 age group has risen from 4% in 1900 to about 40% at present.

Because of this massive change, the schools face an entirely different kind of job today than they did 60 years ago. Courses of study, once designed for a small and select group, have been enlarged to provide training in a wide variety of vocational fields for students of average ability.

In connection with this trend, some vital questions have arisen: Have the schools "watered down" their courses of study to a point where they no longer give sufficient training in tough basic subjects such as history and mathematics? In their effort to meet the needs of the vast majority, are they failing to pose a great enough challenge for the abilities of the unusually brilliant student?

Critics—such as Vice Admiral Hyman Rickover, nuclear energy expert—answer "Yes" to both questions. Certain other observers—such as Dr. James Conant, former president of Harvard University—say that a great many schools are doing a fine job in their effort to meet special requirements of *all* students, but that numerous others need much improvement in this respect.

**What specific advantages** should the student be able to expect from his schooling?

First, he is entitled to help in preparing for his vocation or career. Says the NEA: "The estimated average lifetime earnings of a man who has completed college are \$268,000. That's well above the \$165,000 the average high school graduate will make in a lifetime, and the \$116,000 a person completing only 8 years of schooling can expect."

Another vital task of the schools is to provide training in citizenship. Says Admiral Rickover: "In democratic countries, a [person] must prepare himself not merely for competence in his chosen calling, but must also learn to become a responsible citizen and a contented human being."

—By TOM MYER

We are devoting 6 pages of this paper to a group of map-and-story articles on the world's continents. These, if saved, will provide helpful background and reference material throughout the school year. Next week we shall resume the regular features which had to be omitted in order to make room for these special articles and continental maps.

## NORTH AMERICA

**N**ORTH America is today the wealthiest and most productive of all the continents. Though it has less than one-tenth of the world's people, it has half of the world's wealth. The total output of goods and services in North American lands was valued at 487 billion dollars in 1957 (the most recent year for which complete figures are available).

U. S. output was 440 billion dollars. Canada's was 31; Mexico's, 8. The small lands to the south accounted for the remainder.

**Varied terrain.** With an area of 9,375,000 square miles, North America ranks after Asia and Africa in size. Extending from well above the Arctic Circle to within 500 miles of the equator, it is a continent of great variety.

The peaks of the Rocky Mountains, running down the western length of the continent, rank among the world's loftiest. In the east are the lower Appalachians. In between are the Great Plains, extending from northern Canada nearly to the Gulf of Mexico.

In the Mississippi-Missouri waterways, North America has the longest river system on the globe. From the headwaters of the Missouri in Montana to the mouth of the Mississippi at the Gulf of Mexico is 4,200 miles.

The lowest place on the continent is Death Valley, California—about 280 feet below sea level. The highest is Mt. McKinley in Alaska. This peak rises to an altitude of 20,300 feet above sea level.

**Melting pot.** North America's population of 255,000,000 is far less than that of either Asia or Europe. Except for Australia, no other of the populated continents has been so recently settled. The only "true Americans" are Eskimos and Indians. The ancestry of all other North Americans can be traced back to people living on other continents within the past 350 years.

The forebears of most North Americans came from northern Europe—from the British Isles, Germany, France, and the Scandinavian lands. Large numbers also came from Spain, Italy, and the Balkan areas. The ancestors of many Negroes were brought from Africa as slaves. Today there is hardly a country in the world that has not contributed to the "melting pot" of North America.

**Democratic lands.** In all, there are 12 independent countries on the continent (including the offshore nations of Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic). Most of North America is occupied by 3 countries—Canada, the United States, and Mexico. The smaller nations lie to the south of Mexico, and they are referred to as Central America.

English, Spanish, and French are the 3 languages most frequently used. South of the English-speaking areas of Canada and the United States are the lands where Spanish is the common tongue. French is spoken in many parts of eastern Canada and in Haiti.

Democratic government is practiced throughout the continent except in small areas where one-man rule is in effect (for example, in the Dominican Republic and Cuba; and, to a lesser degree, in Nicaragua).

A number of small areas are under



outside rule. All these regions are in the West Indies except British Honduras (just south of Mexico) and the French-controlled islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon near Newfoundland. The large northern island of Greenland, under Denmark's control, is also generally included within North America as is the British-controlled island of Bermuda in the Atlantic Ocean.

**Rich resources.** Among the reasons why North America is the wealthiest continent are its vigorous people, its favorable climate (for the most part), and a wealth of natural resources. The continent's underground wealth includes oil, iron, copper, silver, zinc, lead, and uranium. The United States, Canada, and Mexico all rank among the leading countries of the world in petroleum production.

Fertile farm lands have helped North Americans produce most of the foods they need. Canada and the United States rank among the leading nations in the production of wheat, oats, barley, meat, and milk. Cuba tops the world in sugar output. In Canada and in the northern part of

the United States are great forests of pine, fir, and spruce as well as substantial growths of hardwood.

**Partnership.** The other regions of North America are extremely important to the United States. We have especially close defense ties with Canada. Our northern neighbor is a fellow member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). We also cooperate on defense with the North American lands south of our borders under the Rio Pact which pledges joint action in resisting outside aggression.

Trade is a further bond between our country and the other North American nations. About 35% of all that we sold outside our borders last year went to lands on our own continent. About the same percentage of our outside purchases came from these North American neighbors.

**U. S. position.** North America has not been torn with national rivalries to the extent that Europe has. Though occasional disputes arise, generally the countries of this continent get along well with one another.

Unlike the situation in Europe and Asia, the communists have not been able to make much headway in North America. A few years ago, the Reds did get the upper hand for a time in Guatemala, but they were soon curbed. Today, rising communist influence on the island of Cuba is becoming a matter of increasing concern.

The position of the United States as the wealthiest and most powerful nation on the continent poses problems from time to time. The lands to the south have, at certain periods, complained about the dominating role of their big neighbor in continental affairs. A source of concern in Canada has been the increasing control by U. S. investors of Canadian industries and mining enterprises. In the face of outside threats, though, the nations of North America usually present a united front.

### Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

HORIZONTAL: Antarctic. VERTICAL: 1. Havana; 2. Lenin; 3. Twain; 4. sugar; 5. Harvard; 6. Victoria; 7. Batista; 8. Irving; 9. Moscow.



## SOUTH AMERICA

IN speaking of their continent, South Americans frequently use the word *mañana*. This Spanish word means *tomorrow*. It is tomorrow—or at least in the future—that South Americans expect their continent to play a big role in global affairs.

Today, South America is one of the great underdeveloped regions of the world. Jungles, deserts, and high mountains take up most of the land. Only about 5% of the continent is fit for growing crops.

**Geographic features.** South America extends from the Isthmus of Panama to Cape Horn, 4,800 miles to the south. With an area of 6,846,000 square miles, it ranks fourth in size among the continents.

Much of South America lies in the tropics, but the southern part of the continent has a temperate climate resembling that of the United States. The Andes Mountains, running down the western coast, are a continuation of our own Rockies. Though not as long as the Mississippi-Missouri, the Amazon River carries more water than any other river. Over 150 miles wide at its mouth, the Amazon drains a jungle area more than two-thirds as big as the entire United States.

South of the tropical regions lie the grassy plains called the *pampas*. They are one of the world's great farming and grazing regions.

South America's rugged terrain has profoundly affected the continent's development. The lofty mountains and the jungles have made travel, trade, and communication difficult in many parts of the region.

**Sparse population.** With 133,000,000 people, South America is one of the more sparsely settled continents. Like North America, this continent was colonized by Europeans who took the land from the native Indians. There are still large numbers of Indians in South America, especially in the mountainous regions of the various countries.

Many of this continent's early settlers came from Spain and Portugal. In more recent years, Germany, Italy, Japan, and other lands have supplied immigrants in large numbers. In the northern part of South America are many Negroes whose ancestors were brought from Africa to work as slaves.

**Struggling lands.** On this continent are 10 independent lands together with the small colonial areas of British, French, and Dutch Guiana (the latter is also known as Surinam). All these countries try to give the appearance of having democratic forms of government, though there have been many examples of dictatorship in past years. Today, only Paraguay is a flagrant example of one-man rule.

In Brazil, the continent's largest nation, the Portuguese language is used. In the other independent lands, Spanish is the official tongue.

Most people in South America make their living from the land. Coffee is a big crop in the northern part of the continent. In the south, wheat is a major crop, and cattle are raised. Farming in many areas is still carried on under primitive conditions, and the crop yield is small.

South America got off to a late start in factory building. In some areas—Brazil, for example—great gains have been made in industrialization in recent years. Even so, South America



lags far behind North America and Europe in factory growth. The continent's underground wealth—petroleum, tin, nitrates, copper, and iron—may be the basis for industrial expansion in the future.

Transportation troubles are perhaps the biggest barrier to further industrialization. For example, the tin mines of Bolivia are high in the Andes. The iron ore of Brazil is located far from deposits of coal, needed in the steel-making process.

With its lack of development, South America is a region of generally low living standards. Though some of its people are wealthy and live in such modern cities as Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires, the large majority of citizens earn a poor living.

**Ties with U. S.** For the United States, South America is—economically speaking—a supplier of raw ma-

terials and a market for manufactured products. Our purchases from the continent to the south include petroleum, coffee, and copper. We sell that area automobiles, machinery, textiles, and many other kinds of manufactured products.

Last year, 18% of our imports came from South America. Of the goods we sold abroad, 14% of the total went to this continent.

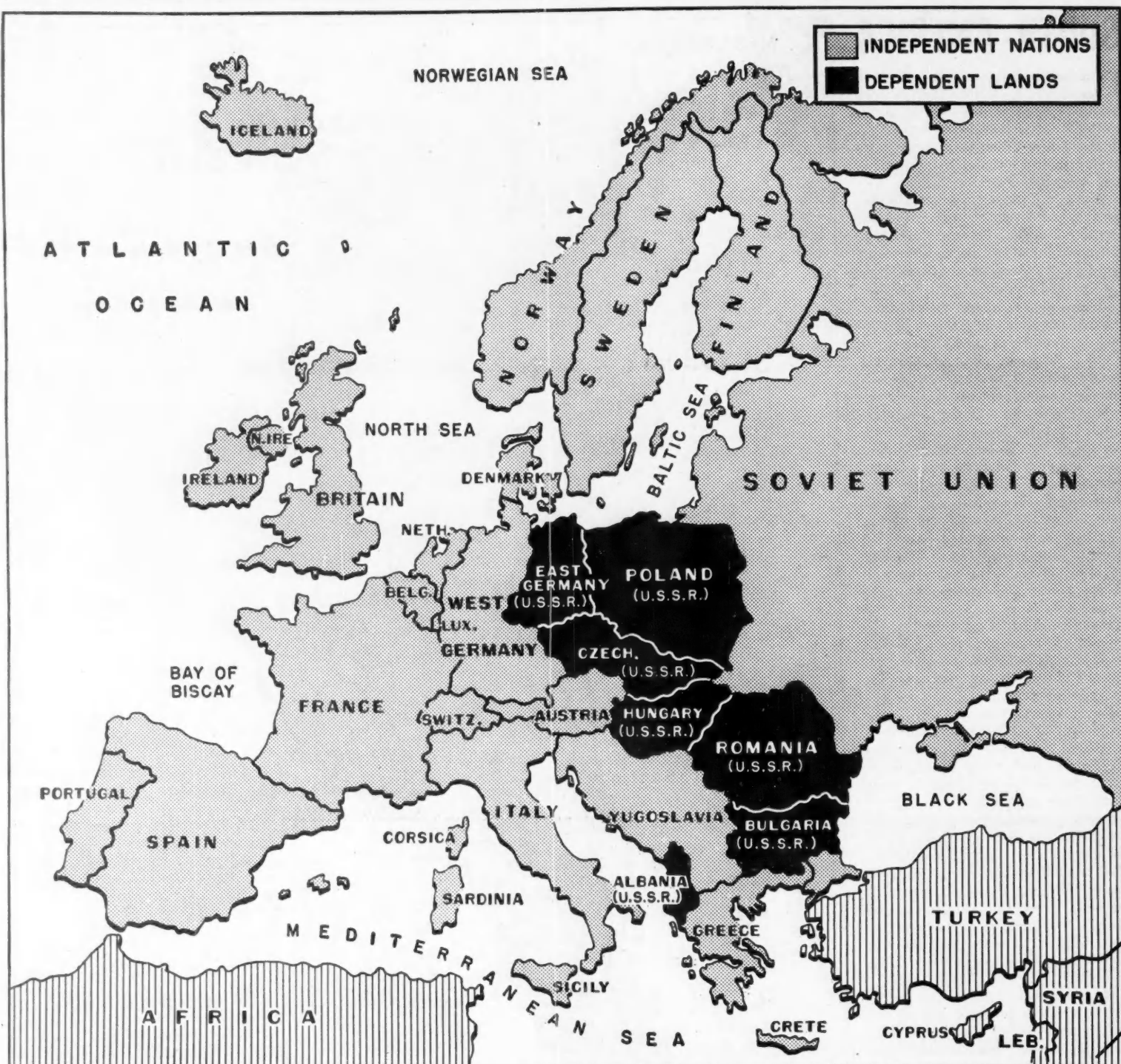
The South American nations play a vital role in the defense plans for the Western Hemisphere. The lands of North and South America have long stood side by side in the face of aggression from outside the area. All the continent's 10 republics belong—with the United States and certain other North American countries—to the Organization of American States.

**Big problems.** Raising living standards is a major problem throughout

South America. Intensive efforts are being made to reduce illiteracy and eliminate disease. Attempts are also being made to produce new crops and products. In the past, many of the South American lands have staked their welfare too much on a single crop, and when it has failed or prices have declined, widespread suffering has resulted.

Political instability has long been a problem. This, too, can be traced in large degree to the widespread poverty and lack of education that have kept the great majority of people from participating in political affairs.

Today there is more stability than at most times in the past. As the region develops further and a middle class emerges to fill the gap between the very rich and the very poor, there should be less likelihood of revolutions in the future.



## EUROPE

**T**HOUGH the continent of Europe is some 3,000 miles from the United States, what goes on there is of great interest to Americans. We are tied closely to Europe by bonds of tradition, language, trade, and defense.

No continent has played a more influential role in history. The idea of modern nations originated in Europe, and so did the factory system plus the growing use of machine power (known as the Industrial Revolution).

From Europe, the era of exploration was launched. Several nations built up great empires. Europeans migrated overseas in large numbers. Almost 90% of today's Americans are of European descent.

**Big peninsula.** Geographically, Europe is a great peninsula—extending westward from Asia—with numerous offshore islands. No other continent has such an irregular coastline. Its many harbors and navigable rivers helped to turn its people into seafarers in ancient times.

The continent's area of 3,771,000 square miles makes it a bit larger than the United States. Great plains

stretch across north-central Europe. Farther south is a series of mountain ranges, including the Alps.

The continent's eastern boundary is generally regarded as Russia's Ural Mountains. Most of Europe is farther north than the United States, but warm ocean currents keep the climate mild.

**Small nations.** Europe is the smallest of the continents except Australia. It is less than half the size of North America yet it has more than twice as many people with a population of nearly 600,000,000.

No other continent has so many small nations. Europeans live in 28 countries, 2 of which (the Soviet Union and Turkey) are partly in Asia. (In addition there are 5 tiny independent states—Vatican City, Andorra, San Marino, Liechtenstein, and Monaco—too small to be designated on the accompanying map.)

Russia takes up almost one-half the land area. Otherwise, Europe is a continent of small, densely populated countries. Except for the Soviet Union, no European nation is as big as Texas.

In its ways of government, Europe is sharply divided. The imaginary

Iron Curtain, running generally north and south through central Europe, separates the democratic countries in the west from the communist lands in the east.

The communist countries are Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, East Germany, Albania, and Yugoslavia. (All except Yugoslavia are labeled U.S.S.R. to show that their governments are controlled by Moscow.) The other lands of Europe follow the democratic system, though in Portugal and Spain, one-man rule is practiced.

**Industrial region.** Though more Europeans actually are engaged in farming than in any other occupation, the continent has long been known as a manufacturing region. Among the foremost industrial countries are Great Britain and West Germany.

Coal, iron ore, petroleum, copper, lead, and zinc are found in Europe, but the supply of each varies greatly from country to country. For example, Britain has plenty of coal but lacks iron ore. The continent as a whole does not produce enough petroleum to meet its own needs. It has to rely on trade to supply the raw materials it lacks.

Europe is a major trading partner

of the United States. In 1958, 29% of the goods we sold abroad went to Europe, while 26% of our foreign purchases came from that continent.

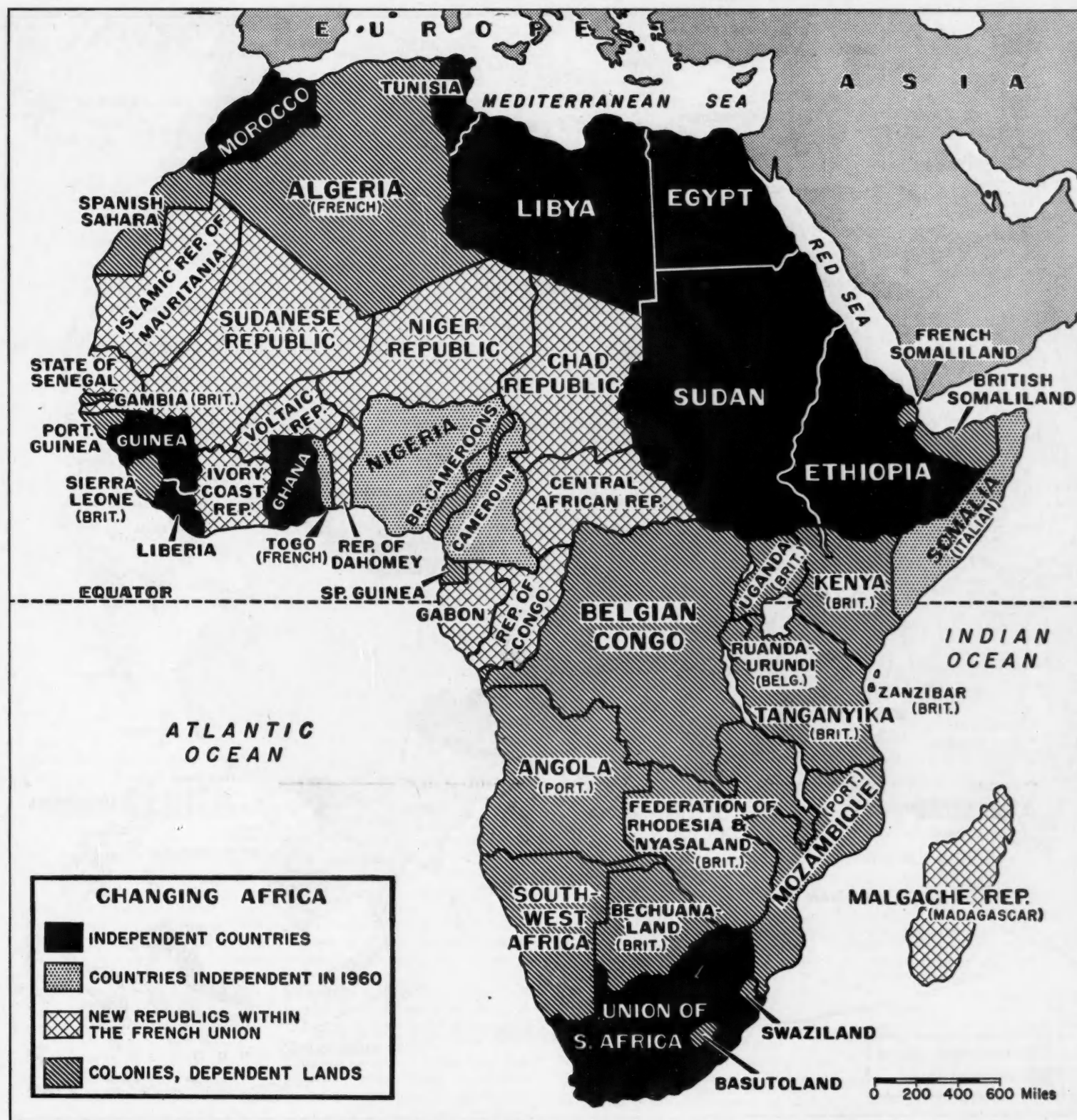
**Effects of war.** Twice in this century, Europe was a major theater of conflict. World Wars I and II brought widespread destruction and many changes in national boundaries.

As we know, Germany became a divided land, and Berlin a divided city. Poland's boundaries were altered. Three Baltic nations—Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia—were swallowed up by Russia, an act which the United States has never regarded as legal.

The biggest problems that Europe faces stem from the last war. The division of Europe into free-world and communist sectors has kept tension high on the continent. The 2 sides have not been able to agree on the future of Germany and of Berlin. The lands of western Europe have had to devote much attention to the threat of communist penetration.

The United States has played a big part in bolstering the defenses of the western European nations. We are a partner of these countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).





## AFRICA

**A**FRICA is a continent where the drive for freedom is strong and colonial rule is declining. There were only 4 independent African lands before World War II. There are 10 now. There will be 14 next year, perhaps more as colonial areas continue to press for self-government.

To the United States, developments on this continent are important. We have a number of defense bases on it. We seek cooperation with its lands to check communism, for Africa under Red control could threaten us.

We have only a small amount of trade with Africa now, but expect to increase it as the continent progresses. Africa buys about \$600,000,000 worth of U. S. goods, or nearly 4% of all our annual exports. We buy a similar amount of minerals and other raw materials from Africa, a little more than 4% of all our

imports from lands and territories around the world.

**Geography.** This is the world's second-largest continent. Its area, 11,693,000 square miles, is over 3 times that of the United States.

The Sahara Desert covers most of North Africa. Southward are grasslands where lions roam, tropical jungles at the equator, and then more grasslands, deserts, and dry plateaus. Highest mountain is Kilimanjaro, over 19,000 feet, in Tanganyika. There are also towering peaks in Ethiopia.

**Population** is 224,000,000. Africans in the north are generally dark-skinned Arabs and Berbers. In the center and south, the people are mostly Negroes. Only about 3 of every 100 Africans are white, mainly of European stock.

Most natives are poor. Some live in tribal settlements, and hunt and fish. Others hold jobs in cities and towns as laborers, miners, and servants. A great many of these people

live in slums. Close to 90% of the native population cannot read or write. Disease and poor diet cause large numbers of Africans to die before age 30.

**Lands, territories.** France, Britain, Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Italy, and the Union of South Africa governed about nine-tenths of Africa before World War II. Today, barely two-thirds of the continent is under foreign supervision, and about one-third is independent.

The 4 independent lands before World War II: Ethiopia, an ancient kingdom; Liberia, never under foreign rule, set up with American aid in the 1800's; Egypt and the Union of South Africa, both formerly British.

The 6 new nations: Libya (was Italian); Sudan (was British-Egyptian); Ghana (was British); Morocco, Tunisia, and Guinea (were French).

The 4 to become independent in 1960: Nigeria (British); Somalia

(Italian); Togo and Cameroun (French).

Besides the above, 11 partly independent republics have been formed in France's western and equatorial regions. Another such republic is Malgache on the island of Madagascar. These lands run their own governments, but France still controls defense and foreign relations. (See map for names of the 12.)

**Resources.** Africa produces most of the world's diamonds, gold, palm oil, sisal (for making rope), and cobalt. The Belgian Congo supplies uranium, the raw material of atomic energy. Copper, manganese, tin, zinc, bauxite (aluminum ore) are other resources.

**Problems.** Building democracy and raising living standards are the great problems before Africa. Success depends on increased education, development of industries, and an end to racial disputes among Arabs, Negroes, and whites.



## ASIA

**ASIA** is a continent in tumult. On this sprawling land mass, where ancient civilizations have flourished and died, the old and the new are in constant conflict. Here, too, the rivalry between the democratic and the communist ways of life is most intense—especially in areas where new governments are struggling to achieve stability.

**Vast continent.** Largest of the continents, Asia covers one-third of the earth's surface. Its area of 18,000,000 square miles makes it bigger than North and South America combined.

So big and so varied is Asia that it is hard to generalize about its terrain or climate. From a great, twisted mass of mountains ("the roof of the world") in and about Tibet, the land slopes downward toward the Arctic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. On the coastal plains, mighty rivers flow.

Almost every kind of climate is found on this sprawling continent, running from the same latitude as northern Canada to that of Brazil.

**Big population.** More than half the world's inhabitants live in Asia. A recent estimate places the population at 1,600,000,000. Most of the people live under crowded conditions on the river plains of southern and eastern Asia. There are dozens of groups, differing in languages and customs.

Except for its sizable areas of farm land, Asia is a poor continent. Average income per person is lower than on any other continent. Farming methods are outmoded. Factory growth is just beginning.

Large supplies of petroleum exist around the Persian Gulf. Iron ore and coal are found in scattered regions. As mineral exploration continues, more underground wealth may be found, but Asia does not now have as large mineral resources as most other continents.

**New governments.** Many Asian countries have become independent since World War II. They include Burma, Ceylon, India, Malaya, Pakistan, Jordan, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Laos, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippine Islands, Korea, and Viet Nam. The Reds took over the northern part of Korea and Viet Nam, so that each is now divided into free-world and communist areas under separate governments.

The Asian land of Syria merged last year with the African country of Egypt to form the United Arab Republic. Turkey is partly in Asia and partly in Europe, as is the U.S.S.R.

**Major tasks.** Raising living standards is a major goal of Asian leaders. A number of lands are now embarking on industrial programs. The race between communist China and democratic India to modernize their countries is being watched closely in other nations. The outcome may determine whether many of the "neutral" lands

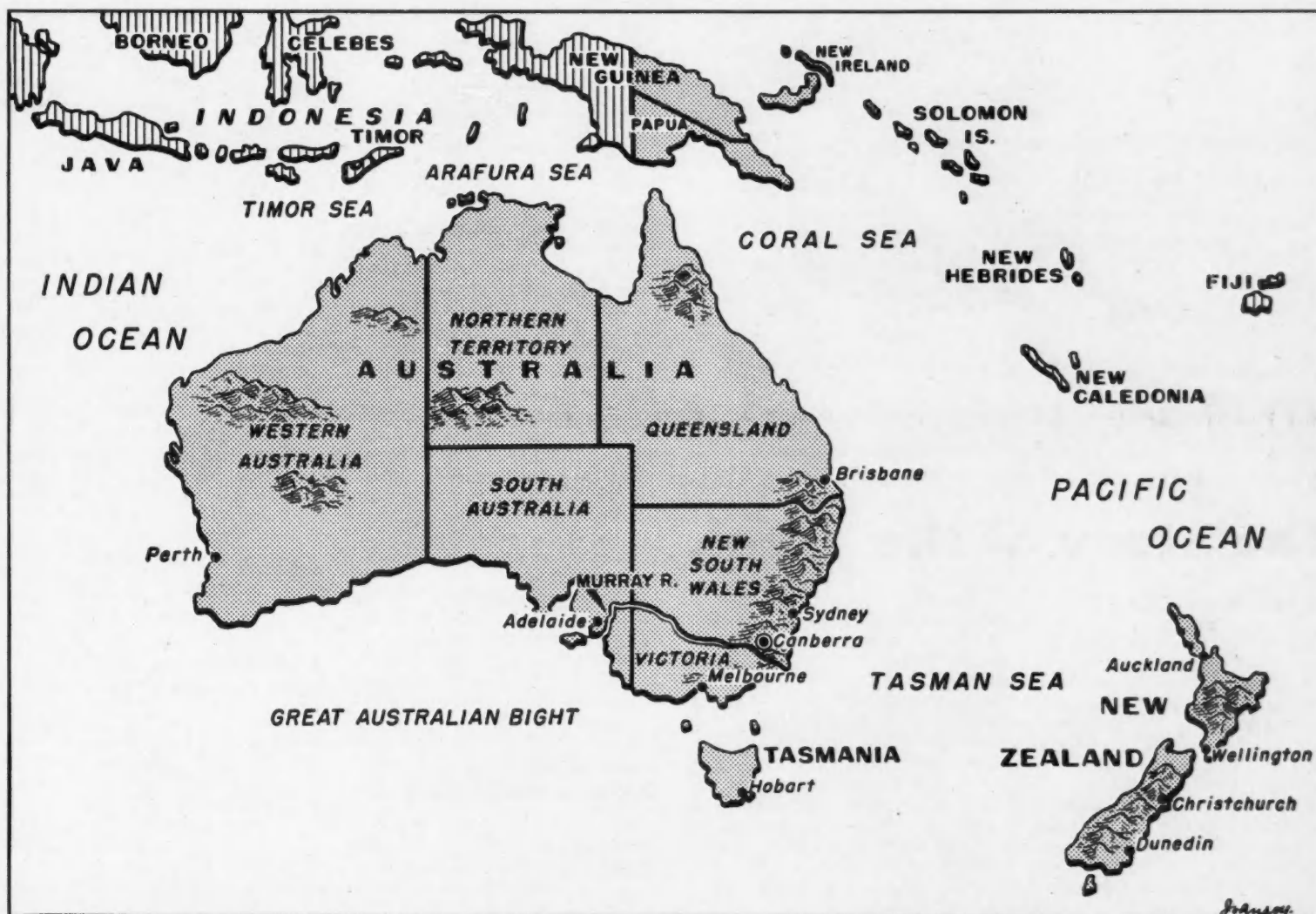
of southern Asia will choose communism or democracy.

The threat of communist expansion is another big problem. It is in Asia that the Reds have made their biggest gains since World War II. Today almost half of Asia's people are under communist control.

Red governments exist on the mainland of China, in North Korea and North Viet Nam, and in the Mongolian People's Republic. Siberia is, of course, part of the Soviet Union and is controlled from Moscow. In recent months, the communists have threatened to take over Laos, and have exerted pressure along India's borders.

To help check the Red threat, the United States has defense pacts with Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and the Philippines. We belong to the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), an 8-nation group formed to halt the communist advance into the lands south of China. We are also allied with Turkey in NATO.





## Australia

THE continent of Australia is the world's smallest, with an area of 2,974,581 square miles—somewhat smaller than the United States. New Zealand, often linked with Australia because of the close ties between the 2 lands, has an area of 104,000 square miles—about the size of Colorado.

With only 9,846,000 people, Australia is the most sparsely populated of all continents. There are about 3.2 persons per square mile. New Zealand, with 2,282,000 inhabitants, has 22 individuals per square mile.

Australia and New Zealand are now forging closer ties with nearby Asian lands. The 2 Pacific nations are seeking new trade agreements with Japan and other countries of Asia.

The "lands down under" are already linked with Thailand, Pakistan, and the Philippines, along with Britain, France, and the United States, in the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization. SEATO was established in 1954 as a bulwark against Red aggression in the Orient. This pact, plus the Australia, New Zealand, United States defense agreement called ANZUS, makes the 2 Pacific lands important defense partners of Uncle Sam.

**Geographically**, Australia is divided into 3 big regions: (1) A narrow eastern strip of low mountains, forests, and fertile plains; (2) the semi-arid central plains that cover about a third of the continent; (3) the dry, western plateau that extends over about half of Australia. Much of the continent has very little rainfall and a warm climate.

New Zealand is made up of 2 big islands and some smaller ones. It is

a beautiful land of mountains, lakes, and green valleys.

**Resources** are plentiful in Australia. That nation has large supplies of bituminous (soft) coal, gold, silver, lead, uranium, and other minerals. New Zealand has few natural resources, but it has limitless sources of water power to produce electricity.

Australia leads the world in the production of wool, and turns out large amounts of wheat, livestock, and a growing number of factory goods. New Zealand is also a big wool producer, and sells large quantities of dairy products abroad.

**Trade** between the lands down under and the United States is relatively small. Last year, we sold \$243,000,000 in goods to the 2 nations, and bought items worth \$208,000,000 from them. These figures amount to about 1.5% of our exports; 1.6% of our imports.

One reason Australia and New Zealand are looking for new friends in Asia is to find additional customers for their wool, beef, and other goods.

**Britain** claimed the lands down under after Captain James Cook explored them in the 1700's. Most immigrants to both lands came from English-speaking countries. Hence, English is the language spoken by most of the inhabitants.

**The governments** of Australia and New Zealand are democratic in form, modeled largely after that of Britain. The 2 Pacific lands became self-governing members of the Commonwealth of Nations in the early 1900's. Both countries provide extensive health, old age, and other social benefits.

As a continent, Australia ranks next to North America in individual earnings. The per capita income in Australia is about \$950 a year. In New Zealand it is \$1,000 annually.

## NEWS QUIZ

### The Nation's Schools

1. Young people attending schools and colleges make up about how large a part of our entire population:  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , or  $\frac{1}{2}$ ?
2. Over the last 10 years, has the amount of money devoted to schools in America increased, decreased, or remained about the same?
3. Give arguments of people who think we are now spending far too little on education, and arguments of those who say we are spending about enough.
4. Which type of government—federal, state, or local—now provides the most money for public elementary and high schools?
5. What has happened to high school and college enrollments, in comparison to the size of our total youth population, during this present century?
6. How has this change affected the schools' tasks and responsibilities?
7. Discuss the specific advantages that a student should be able to expect from his schooling.

### Discussion

1. Do you or do you not favor a sizable increase in federal financial aid to the schools? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Do you think we need a substantial increase in the total amount of money spent on education in this country? Why or why not?
3. In general, do you feel that the schools are doing their jobs well and are providing adequate courses of study? Explain your position.

### World's Continents

1. What are some of the factors that have contributed to making North America the wealthiest continent?
2. In what respects are the other countries of North America extremely important to the United States?

3. Why is the phrase, "continent of tomorrow," an apt description for South America?

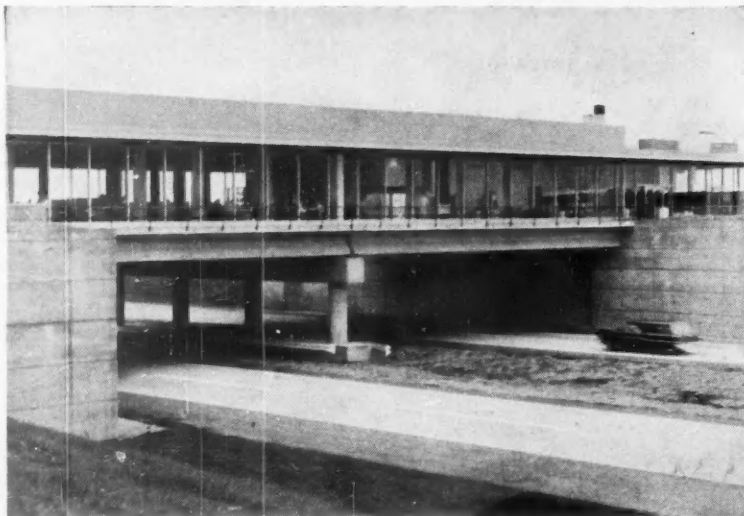
4. What are the biggest problems confronting South American leaders?
5. Tell how Europe has played an influential role in history.
6. List some of the problems that were created in Europe by World War II.
7. How has the map of Asia been changed since World War II?
8. In what ways has the drive for freedom exhibited itself in Africa in recent years?
9. What are some of the reasons for Australia's prosperity as a continent?

### Discussion

1. Do you think that North America will be able to keep its lead over other continents in wealth and productivity in the years ahead? Why, or why not?
2. On what continent do you think that the danger of communist penetration will be most acute over the next 10 years? Give reasons for your answer.
3. How do you think the tensions that trouble such continents as Africa, Asia, and South America can be reduced? Explain.

### Miscellaneous

1. Why are American experts studying Russia's latest national budget?
2. Over what issue do Greeks and Turks on Cyprus differ?
3. What have we learned about the moon's other side from Soviet rocket photos?
4. Which is our southernmost state? Which is farthest west?
5. What is the purpose of Veterans Day?
6. When and where will the summit meeting of western powers take place?



THIS UNUSUAL RESTAURANT spans a busy highway north of Chicago

## The Story of the Week

### Budget Gives Clues To Soviet Plans

American experts are taking a close look at Russia's new budget for the coming year, which was made public a short time ago. From this study, they hope to get additional information about Moscow's military and scientific plans for the future.

According to the Soviet budget, the Reds will continue to spend as much on arms in the year to come as they are now doing. At the same time, they will boost funds for scientific projects by more than 15% to 8.2 billion dollars for 1960. This seems to indicate that Russia is determined to outstrip us in the field of science.

The Soviet budget also provides more money for food, housing, and other necessities of life in the year ahead. In Russia, the expenses and incomes of farms, shops, and industrial plants are included in the national budget, because all enterprises of any importance are owned and run by the government.

### Calendar Crowded with Top-Level Meetings

Western leaders are now preparing for top-level talks to be held in Paris December 19. In preparation for these meetings, West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer plans to go to London next week to confer with British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. On December 1, Mr. Adenauer is due to meet with French President Charles de Gaulle.

At the December 19 talks, President Eisenhower, Mr. de Gaulle, Prime Minister Macmillan, and Chancellor Adenauer are expected to make plans for a western-Soviet summit parley to be held in the spring.

### Will Trouble Return To Little Cyprus?

Cyprus still hopes to become an independent republic next February 16 in line with plans agreed upon last winter by Britain, ruler of the island, and by Greece and Turkey, which formerly made claims on the territory.

But mounting tensions between Greek and Turkish inhabitants of the 3,572-square-mile Mediterranean island may cause a snag in independence plans. About 8 out of every 10 Cypriots are of Greek descent, while the

remainder are largely of Turkish origin. In the past, the 2 groups and the British were involved in bitter 3-cornered fighting.

Now the Greeks and Turks disagree over the new republic's plan of government. The Turks want a weak president and a strong legislature, while the Greeks insist on a strong chief executive and a weak Parliament. Under the agreement granting independence to Cyprus, the president must be a Greek Cypriot, while the legislature is to be divided between the 2 groups on the basis of 3 Turks for every 7 Greek members.

### The Moon Turns Its Other Cheek to View

Scientists are still studying Soviet photographs of the other side of the moon, which always looks away from us. The pictures were taken by the Russian rocket that passed the earth's nearest space neighbor early in October. These photos provide an answer to the age-old question of what the far side of the moon really looks like.

The Soviet pictures indicate that the moon's other side is somewhat smoother than the one that is visible to us. But, like the familiar face of the heavenly body, the hidden side also has what appear to be mountain ranges and giant craters. The Russians have already named these lunar landmarks.

### Can You Answer This Quiz on Our 50 States?

Which of our states extends farthest west? Which are our southernmost and northernmost states? The answers to these questions about our country have changed since Alaska and Hawaii entered the Union.

Our northernmost state, of course, is now Alaska. Its Point Barrow lies deep inside the Arctic Circle. Our largest state also reaches farther west than any other part of the Union, even Hawaii. Alaska's Aleutian Island chain comes to within a few miles of Soviet-controlled North Pacific islands. Before Alaska joined the Union, the state of Washington's Cape Alava was our westernmost point, and Minnesota's Lake of the Woods was the nation's northernmost territory.

The nation's southernmost point formerly was Key West, Florida. Now that Hawaii is in the Union, it is

farther south than any other part of the United States.

### Soon the Mail May Go Through in Minutes

Before too long, you may be able to send letters to friends and relatives on the other side of the country within minutes. The U. S. Post Office Department is now experimenting with a device that flashes letters to a receiving station where they are copied by another machine and sent on their way. The entire procedure is done mechanically and no one sees the contents of the letters.

### America Honors Its War Veterans This Week

Communities across the nation will hold parades and other special observances on Wednesday, November 11, to honor men and women who have served in America's armed forces.

Until a few years ago, November 11 was observed as Armistice Day—the day on which fighting in World War I came to an end in 1918. But, in 1954, Congress authorized the President to proclaim November 11 as Veterans Day—a special occasion to pay honor and tribute to our fighting men of all wars.

### Reduced Price for Our New World Chart

Our new 2-color wall chart—A World of Facts --- Vital Comparisons of 90 Countries Around the Globe—is now available to our subscribers at the special price of 50 cents. The supply is limited, so place your order as soon as possible. Teachers subscribing to 15 or more copies of this paper will, of course, continue to receive the chart free of cost.

### Steel Dispute Remains In the Headlines

There were indications last week that more and more of the steel companies would sign new work contracts with their employees, many of whom have been idle since the strike began last July. The Kaiser Steel Company and several other firms have already signed new agreements with the union. Their contracts provide for pay boosts and other benefits totaling more than 20 cents an hour to be granted over the next 20 months.

At our press time, however, the labor-management dispute continued

to keep furnaces idle at the United States Steel Corporation and other giants of the industry. Also undecided, as of this writing, is what action the U. S. Supreme Court will take on the Administration's request that steelworkers be ordered back on the job for an 80-day period as provided by the Taft-Hartley labor law (see last week's issue of this paper).

### Dimes Still Coming For India's Sunshine

Dimes are still coming in for *Sunshine*, India's English-language magazine. Have you sent yours yet? If not, you can help to make this campaign a big success by sending in your contribution now. Remember, every dime you give buys a magazine for an Indian student who, in turn, may make it available to a number of his friends.

We wish again to thank the thousands of students throughout the nation who have already contributed to this worthwhile cause. Your cooperation and interest in this project show that you care about others who are less fortunate than we in this country.

### Trouble Mounts in Fidel Castro's Cuba

Shortly after Fidel Castro came to power in Cuba last January, he suspended regular court trials for persons accused of opposing his movement. Opponents were tried by military tribunals, which sent thousands of persons to jail or condemned them to death by firing squads. The Cuban leader has now returned to this method of fighting the mounting opposition to his regime.

President Castro is also whipping up anti-American feeling in his country, probably to draw attention of the Cuban people away from the failures of his government. At the same time, he is imposing new taxes and other restrictions on United States firms doing business in the island nation. These actions may eventually force American business interests to leave Cuba, thus further weakening its already tottering economy.

### Main Articles in Next Week's Issue

Unless unforeseen developments arise, the main articles next week will deal with (1) proposals for compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes, and (2) NATO meeting in Washington, D. C.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

Two dogs were talking.  
"What's your name?" asked No. 1.  
"I don't know exactly," replied No. 2,  
"but I think it's 'Down Boy.'"

Father, looking over report card, to small son: "One thing in your favor—with these grades, you couldn't possibly be cheating."

Basic research is what I'm doing when I don't know what I am doing, says Wernher von Braun, U. S. rocket expert.

Paul: "With what hand do you stir your soup?"  
Sam: "My right, of course."  
Paul: "How crude! Most people use a spoon."

"I do my hardest work before breakfast."  
"What's that?"  
"Getting up!"

Father to teen-age son: "Mind if I use the car myself tonight? I'm taking your mother out and I want to impress her."



"Happy birthday, Alice—with all my allowance."



